

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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INFO USMISSION USUN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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E.O. 11652 - DECON 15MAR1976

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, ES

SUBJECT: CERP 0008 - EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: STATE 064907

PARIS FOR UNESCO

ROME FOR FODAG

VIENNA FOR IAEA AND UNIDO

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

A) THE RESREP HAS REASONABLY EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER UNDP ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY. AS A COORDINATOR OF REGIONAL OR INTER-REGIONAL PROJECTS THE RESREP'S RESPONSIBILITY IS LIMITED TO THE PRESENTATION OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT. FOR ALL OTHER COUNTRY PROGRAMS UNDP PROPOSES AND COBRINATES ALL PHASES OF THE PROJECTS. RELATIONSHIPS OF THE RESREP WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OTHER UN AGENCIES APPEAR TO BE SATISFACTORY.

AN AGREEMENT FOR A COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE IBRD EDUCATION LOAN IS TO BE SIGNED THIS MONTH. FOR THIS PROGRAM IBRD LOAN FUNDS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS HOST GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART CONTRIBUTIONS. THIS CONCESSION WAS MADE BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIONS OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET. UNESCO WILL BE THE EXECUTING AGENCY WITH UNDP MANAGING UNESCO AND IBRD PROJECT FUNDS.

UNICEF HAS NO PARTICIPATION IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING EXERCISES. B) UNDP AND THE NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL (CONAPLAN) ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF COORDINATION BY THE COUNCIL. AT THE RECOMMENDATION OF UNDP A NEW DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN CONAPLAN TO COORDINATE ALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. WHILE NOT YET FULL FUNCTIONAL, THE NEW DEPARTMENT HAS RESULTED IN CLODDY RELATIONS BETWEEN DONOR AGENCIES AND CONAPLAN. WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, CONVINCED THAT THE COORDINATING MECHANISM WILL BE EFFECTIVELY USED. WHILE THE AID MISSION WAS ENGAGED IN PREPARING WITH CONAPLAN A PROJECT FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE COUNCIL ITSELF, CONAPLAN WAS WORKING UP A VERY SIMILAR PROJECT WITH UNDP. CONAPLAN DID NOT INFORM THE AID MISSION OF THE UNDP PROJECTS, AND WE BECAME AWARE OF IT THROUGH A CHANCE CONVERSATION WITH THE RESREP.

C) RESREP IS THE NOMINAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ALL UN ACTIVITIES IN THE COUNTRY BUT APPARENTLY DOES NOT CHOOSE TO EXERCISE MUCH OF HIS AUTHORITY OVER EITHER "PROGRAMMED" OR "AD HOC" ACTIVITIES, GIVING THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OTHER UN AGENCIES BROAD LATITUDE IN PLANNING AND CONDUCTING THEIR PROGRAMS.

D) THE COUNTRY PROGRAM REVIEW WAS HELD AS PLANNED LAST YEAR AND AS A RESULT OF THE REVIEW, THE FUNDING CEILING FOR EL SALVADOR WAS INCREASED TO \$10 MILLION FOR A 5 YEAR PERIOD. THERE IS EXTENSIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE RESREP, HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EXECUTING AGENCY PERSONNEL. THE AID MISSION WAS NOT NOTIFIED OF THE REVIEW NOR ARE WE AWARE OF PARTICIPATION BY OTHER DONORS.

E) ALTHOUGH USAID HAS MAINTAINED A CONTINUED LIAISON WITH UNDP RESREP THERE HAVE BEEN CASES WHERE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPROVED WITH NO PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH MISSION. A PARTICULAR CASE WAS A DIBIOUS "QUASI-EMERGENCY" PROJECT OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SIGNED AT THE BEGINNING OF CY 1974 AND OF WHICH MISSION HAD NO KNOWLEDGE UNTIL ASKED FOR COMMENTS BY AID/W 3 DAYS BEFORE SIGNING OF AGREEMENT WITH HOST GOVERNMENT.

F) ON-GOING UN PROGRAMS HAVE ENCOUNTERED DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION DUE TO 1) LACK OF BUDGETARY AND COUNTERPART SUPPORT

FROM HOST GOVERNMENT; 2) PROJECTS ARE MANY TIMES PORRLY PLANNED AND COVER FIELDS OF LOW GOVERNMENT PRIORITY; 3) DELAY IN THE HIRING OF EXPERTS; 4) LOW QUALITY OF EXPERTS ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAMS; 5) UNTIMELY ASSISTANCE. AN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO CONAPLAN HAS BEEN DELAYED BY MORE THAN SIX MONTHS DUE TO PROBLEMS IN RECRUITING EXPERTS. THE PROGRAM WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN SEX EDUCATION HAS BEEN LIMITED TO THE URBAN SECTOR, WHILE THE BIGGEST DEMAND FOR THESE SERVICES IS IN THE RURAL SECTOR.

TECHNICAL ADVICE BY UNDP IN GEOTHERMAL POWER DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO CONTRACTOR SELECTION, HAS BEEN ALLEGED BY THE SALVADORAN IMPLEMENTING AGENCY THE BE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A COST OVERRUN OF UP TO \$15 MILLION IN THE PROJECT. THE SALVADORAN AGENCY HAS IMPLIED A POSSIBLE CONFLICT OF INTEREST. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY STEPS TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN OR ELIMINATE WEAK PROJECTS.

G) THE TRIPARTITE REVIEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN EL SALVADOR WITH QUARTERLY AND SEMI-ANNUAL MEETINGS TO FOLLOW UP ON ACTION TAKEN OR ON OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROJECTS. BOTH HOST GOVERNMENT AND UNDP OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THEIR SATISFACTION ON THE USEFULNESS OF THESE REVIEWS.

H) THE UNDP IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING POSSIBLE PROJECTS FOCUSING ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, BUT NO DEFINITE PLANS HAVE BEEN DRAFTED.

I) WHILE THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING, EVALUATION AND COORDINATION PROCESSES HAVE BEEN IMPROVED SOMEWHAT DURING THE PAST YEAR, COMMENTS IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT FROM THIS POST ARE, IN GENERAL, STILL VALID.

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